

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: April 18, 2005

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS  
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-252 Chehalis-Centralia No.1: **Project #: V-O-05/10**)

TO: Jim Jellison  
Natural Resource Specialist – TFO/Olympia

**Proposed Action:** Vegetation Management along the Chehalis - Centralia No. 1, 69 kV Transmission Line Corridor from structures 6/5 to 12/4.

**Location:** The project transmission line is located in Lewis County Washington, in BPA's Olympia Region.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

**Description of the Proposal:** BPA proposes to remove tall growing and noxious vegetation from the right of way and access roads that can potentially interfere with the operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission lines. Unwanted, tall growing, and noxious vegetation, danger trees, and reclaim trees will be removed and/or controlled inside the ROW using selective and nonselective methods that may include hand cutting, mowing, and herbicidal treatment. Vegetation management work will occur between structures 6/5 to 12/4 of the subject transmission line. This proposal covers the right-of-way width of 50 to 100 feet totaling about 45 acres of treated area.

**Analysis:** A Vegetation Management Checklist was completed for this project in accordance with the requirements identified in the Bonneville Power Administrations Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285).

The subject corridor traverses public and private lands in Lewis County, Washington. Landowners include private rural residential lands. No tribal lands are involved.

Section 3 of the checklist identifies the natural resources present in the area of the proposed work. The following summarizes natural resources occurring in the project area along with applicable mitigation measures.

**Water Resources:** Water bodies (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) occurring in the project area are listed in section 3.1 of the Vegetation Management Checklist. Trees in riparian zones will be selectively cut to include only those that are within 50 feet of the conductor at maximum sag. Trees will be topped where shrubs are not present to provide shade and a silt buffer.

No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams. The following herbicide buffers will be implemented for the project. Outside a 100' buffer from any stream, ponds, or wetlands Triclopyr BEE (common formulations, Garlon 4 & Tahoe 4E) may be applied. Formulations of Triclopyr TEA (common formulations Garlon 3A and Tahoe 3X) may be applied for spot or localized applications up to the water's edge, except up to 1 yard from the water slope for the EFH Coho Salzer Creek. For any initial or follow up broadcast treatment with Triclopyr TEA on sprouting stumps or brush, a 35' buffer will be maintained from any stream, ponds, wetlands, or sensitive areas.

One drinking water well was identified. No herbicide will be applied within 164 feet of the well located between structures 6/14 +75 and 6/15 +100. No irrigation wells or other water supplies were identified along the rights of way.

Threatened and Endangered Species/Essential Fish Habitat: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of whether its proposed project will have any effects on any listed species. A species list was reviewed from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on February 25, 2005, identifying threatened and endangered species and Critical Habitat Units potentially occurring in the project area. In addition, a review of species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries was conducted. A determination of "No Effect" was made for all ESA listed species and designated critical habitat for the project. A determination of "No Effect" was made for Essential Fish Habitat waters that occur in the project area.

Cultural Resources: The Chehalis Tribe does not know of any cultural sites on this transmission corridor. If a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, work will be stopped in the vicinity and the appropriate tribe, the BPA Environmental Specialist, and the BPA Archeologist will be contacted.

Monitoring: The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally the line will be patrolled annually after treatment to monitor the effectiveness of the treatment and any issues associated with the project.

**Findings:** This Supplement Analysis finds that (1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD, and; (2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. This Supplement Analysis also finds the proposed actions will not affect threatened or endangered species. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ James R. Meyer for

Mark W. Hermeston

Physical Scientist

Licensed Hydrogeologist (WA-663)

CONCUR: /s/ Kathy S. Pierce

DATE: 4-21-05

Kathy S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer (acting)

Attachment:

Vegetation Management Checklist

Effects Determination

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4

K. Pierce – KEC-4

J. Meyer – KEP-4

J. Sharpe – KEPR-4

G. Tippetts – KEPR/Olympia

H. Adams – LC-7

J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2

D. Krauss – TFO/Olympia

T. Grover – TFOF/Olympia

Environmental File – KEC-4

Official File – KEP-(EQ-14)